the Central Government as well as the State Governments are the appropriate Governments, for the fixation/revision of Minimum Wages for the scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdiction. The State Government/U.T. administration have been advised to revise the Minimum Wages within a period not exceeding two years, or on rise of fifty points in the consumer price index numbers, whichever is earlier. They have also been advised to consider payment of variable dearness allowances linked to the Consumer Price Index number in the Minimum Wages.

प्रसूति अवकाश की प्रसुविधा पर प्रतिबंध लगाया जाना

753. **श्री रामसिंह राठवा:** क्या श्रम मंत्री 20 दिसम्बर, 1993 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2446 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रसूति प्रसुविधा अधिनियम, 1961 में तीसरे बच्चे के जन्म लेने पर प्रसूति अवकाश को समाप्त करने संबंधी प्रस्तावित संशोधन कर दिया गया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इसे कब तक लागू किये जाने की संभावना है?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी०ए० संगमा): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Formulation of New Labour Policy

754. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a new labour policy;

(b) if so, whether the Draft of the new labour policy is before the Cabinet for approval;

(c) if so, the details of the new labour policy; and

(d) by when it is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (b). The labour policy of the Government of India is embodied in several laws passed by the Parliament from time to time covering the principal areas of industrial relations, social security and occupational health and safety. The policy is also embodied in special laws meant for the benefit of unorganised workers. These laws are amended from time to time to be consistent with general policy approaches that emerge from national level tripartite consultations and conventions of the International Labour Organisation ratified by the Government of India. This is a continuous process.

महिला श्रमिकों पर अत्याचार

755. **श्री राम नरेश यादव:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा महिला श्रमिकों के शोषण और अत्याचारों को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं;

(ख) उनकी मजदूरी निर्धारित करने और उन्हें अन्य सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिये कौन-कौन सी नीतियां बनाये जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) महिला श्रमिकों की दशाओं में सुधार लाने के लिये क्या प्रभावी कदम उठाए जाने की संभावना है?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी०ए० संगमा): (क) से (ग) सभी कर्मकारों को विधिक संरक्षा उपलब्ध होने के अतिरिक्त विभिन्न श्रम कानूनों अर्थात् कारखाना अधिनियम, 1948, प्रसूति प्रसुविधा अधिनियम, 1961, बागान श्रम अधिनियम, 1951, खान अधिनियम, 1952 आदि में महिला कर्मकारों के लिए स्वास्थ्य, कल्याण,

प्रसूति प्रसुविधा, जोखिमकारी रोजगारों में रोक, अनिवार्य आराम आदि पहलुओं के संबंध में विशेष संरक्षात्मक प्रावधान हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त समान पारिश्रमिक अधिनियम, 1976 में महिलाओं के आर्थिक शोषण को रोकने के लिए मजदूरी भुगतान और अन्य सेवा शर्तों से संबंधित मामलों में भेदभाव न किए जाने का प्रावधान है। उनकी शिक्षा के कार्यक्रमों के अलावा दक्षता उन्नयन, शिशु गृह स्थापित करने और उनको संगठित करने के माध्यम से महिला श्रमिकों को सहायता देने के लिए एक सहायता अनुदान योजना चल रही है।

Retrenchment of Employees on Closure of Several Industries

756. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees have been retrenched due to the closure of several industries during the last one year;

(b) what is the number of labourers laid off, industry-wise; and

(c) what steps Government is taking in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to the available information, 5256 workers were affected due to closure of 181 industrial units during January-November, 1993.

(b) The industry-wise information indicating the number of workers laid off during 1993 (Jan.—Nov.) is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(c) Government has established the National Renewal Fund to provide assistance for training, re-training and redeployment of workers and make available funds for employment generation schemes both in the organised and unorganised sectors in order to provide a social safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences from modernisation, industrial restructuring etc. Rs. 50 crores has been earmarked for counselling, training and redeployment out of the NRF funds and five Employee Assistance Centres have been sanctioned in Bombay, Ahmedabed, Kanpur, Calcutta and Indore. These centres would broadly cover a range of activities including labour market surveys to gather information about potential marketable skills, job counselling, retraining, self-employment and redeployment/ placement. It is proposed to cover about 7000 workers per year through these centres. In addition to this, a special training scheme has also been sanctioned under the National Renewal Fund for implementation through the Directorate General of Employment & Training under the Ministry of Labour for workers who have been rendered surplus or taken voluntary retirement. The scheme envisages training of such workers through part-time evening classes in about 15 selected Industrial Training Institutes which are under the administrative control of the respective state governments. This scheme is also to be implemented in 5 Advanced Training Institutes located at Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Ludhiana and one Central Training Institute for Instructors located at Madras. It is envisaged that about 5300 workers per year would be covered under this scheme.

Statement

Number of Workers laid off during 1993 (Jan.—Nov.) (Provisional): Industry-wise

Industry Group	Workers laid off
Food Products	61
Beverages, Tobacco & Tob. Products	148
Cotton Textiles	19853
Wool, Silk & Synthetic Textiles	1448
Jute, Hemp and Mesta Textiles	2036
Textiles Products	1812
Engineering	5957
Chemical and Chemical Products	2068
Non Metallic Minerals Products	728
Other Manufacturing Industries	—
Coal Mining	18016
Non Coal Mining	330
Plantation	—